

# SENATE HISPANIC BRIEFING ROOM

## WEEKLY NEWS

### Message by Senator Frist on Cuban Independence Day

"Today, Cubans around the world celebrate May 20th, Cuban Independence Day. On behalf of the United States Senate, I send greetings to the Cuban community. My hope is for the Cuban people to soon enjoy the same freedoms and rights that the American people do. Dictatorships have no place in the global community and certainly not in the Americas. May God bless the Cuban people, who are struggling for freedom and democracy. Thank you".

### Memorial Day Message

By U.S. Senator Wayne Allard

Today, we celebrate Memorial Day to honor the sacrifices of those who protect the extraordinary ideals that define the American way of life. This day causes us to reflect on the military men and women who for more than 200 years have so bravely served our country with distinction.

No where is it easier to reflect on the sacrifices made than at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Every state and territory in the union is represented at the memorial by 56 pillars, which are connected by a sculpted bronze rope symbolizing the unity among them that turned the tide for democracy and freedom around the world.

The symbolism of this memorial, I believe, helps every American remember that we are all more alike than we are different. Man or woman, black or white, Republican or Democrat, we are all connected by a common tie: the belief that all people are endowed with unalienable rights, most notably, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Just as importantly, the United States continues to uphold the ideals of freedom and liberty and act against those who would seek to repress them.

This weekend remember those Americans like the brave soldiers from our home state that are still deployed overseas, defending the freedoms of our great country, and let us continue to pray for them. I hope that you all will join me in lifting up the families of those individuals who have lost their lives in service to this great nation, and while these brave soldiers have lost their lives, we all must ensure they never lose the gratitude of their fellow Americans.

*Wayne Allard is Colorado's senior senator.*

## THE SENATE THE WEEK AHEAD

Memorial Day Recess

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## ADVISE & CONSENT WORKING GROUP

Mr. President, though I am not a party to the memorandum of understanding signed last night by 14 of my colleagues, I have had the opportunity to further review the agreement in more detail. I believe the memorandum of understanding makes modest progress, but falls far short, of guaranteeing up or down votes on judicial nominees. It needs to be carefully monitored and executed in good faith.

Let me briefly share my thoughts on the understanding reached last night and my expectations going forward.

First, the memorandum of understanding begins to break the partisan obstruction of the past two years and guarantee fair up or down votes on several judicial nominees. Priscilla Owen, Janice Rogers Brown, and William Pryor all will receive the courtesy and fairness of up or down votes. I will continue to fight for other qualified nominees who have been waiting for votes and deserve the same courtesy and fairness.

Second, the agreement, if followed in good faith, will make filibusters of judicial nominees in the future, including Supreme Court nominees, almost impossible.

Third, let me be very clear: the Constitutional option remains on the table. I will not hesitate to use it if necessary. It has been and continues to be a last resort. My goal is restoring the principle of fair up or down votes on judicial nominees. However, if the minority again acts in bad faith - if they resume their campaign of routine judicial obstruction - I will ask all 100 senators to decide whether judicial nominees deserve fair up-or-down votes.

So let us begin today to execute this memorandum of understanding. This afternoon, I expect the Senate to confirm Priscilla Owen and by the end of the week to process Janice Rogers Brown and William Pryor. We will work with the Minority Leader, the Judiciary Committee and other Senators to move forward expeditiously on other nominees, including those from the Sixth Circuit and Tom Griffith.

This has been a very significant debate. By exposing the injustice of judicial obstruction in the last Congress, we have made progress on restoring a core Constitutional principle: all judicial nominees deserve fair up or down votes. I hope that progress continues.

**-Senator Bill Frist  
Floor Statement on May 24, 2005**

## JOIN THE FRIST HISPANIC LEADERSHIP TEAM TODAY!

We need individuals like you to help us get the message out. Please e-mail me at [noe\\_garcia@frist.senate.gov](mailto:noe_garcia@frist.senate.gov) if you are ready to join the FRIST TEAM.

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